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THURSDAY
APRIL 2, 1953

Selden Chapin and I went at ten o'clock to call on the two Foreign Ministers (an odd arrangement) Messrs. Beyen and Luns. Defense Minister Staf was also there, as well as the Secretary-General of the Foreign Office and another officer.

We talked for an hour and a half, and I marshalled every argument I could, sentimental, practical, economic and political, in favor of speedy ratification by Holland of the EDC treaty and approval of the protocols. I think that what I said was superfluous, for they had some time ago (except for the protocols) decided to go ahead. They have a certain majority for it, and the second chamber will probably vote about May 1st. The Dutch are very deliberate.

At noon we called on Prime Minister Drees. He is against the treaty, has no confidence in the French, but will not obstruct its ratification, which he says is assured.

Lunched with E. at the Royal - and well.

At two-thirty we called on Agriculture Minister Mansholt. A vital fellow. We conversed for 45 minutes about a free market in Europe, especially for agricultural products. He is expected to cut a great figure some day politically, which would not surprise me.

At 3:30 we met again with Beyen and Luns for another hour and a half. This time we covered the political federation. I fear this matter will require months of discussion, especially since the Dutch appear intent on including in the constitution far-reaching economic clauses.

I joined E. to go to see Sir Neville and Lady Butler. The British Embassy residence is a beautiful 18th century house, conspicuous for its

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lovely interior even in this city of lovely houses, with a large garden. It was built about 1750 by the King of Spain - for what purpose I know not - and has for years been leased by the British from its owner, a Jesuit church.

Having survived being annihilated by thousands of dashing bicyclists, we went tonight to dine with the Chapins. The Beyens, the Luns, and the Trimbles were there. The Embassy residence is a handsome and adequate building in the so-called diplomatic section of the capital. Larkin, while head of FBO, had collected a park, well wooded, of about 60 acres surrounded by a high brick wall on which he intended to build a super residence. However, that plan was cancelled and it is now hoped [redacted] the Dutch Government will acquire this real estate and erect on it a palace for the queen.

I sat next to Beyen's enchanting Viennese wife. Both foreign ministers are [redacted] humorous and agreeable.

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